Problems and Prospects of Tourism Development in Latehar District

SYNOPSIS FOR PH. D. REGISTRATION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY

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1. A BRIEF INTRODUCTION OF THE RESEARCH TOPIC

Tourism today is one of the largest industries of the world which is still growing to a wide extent. It is an inclusive industry i.e, accommodating many services and sectors within it like, residential services, transport and communication service, security, health, and sanitation. Tourism if explained in simple words, it is an activity of travel to some place other than their usual residing place for leisure, social or other additional motives, not only this but it also encompasses the travel for business purpose, but it should be for a definite term i.e, should be more than 24hrs but less than a year. Although tourism is defined, but for every individual, tourism has its own meaning like for some it is an adventure or it is a time spent with loved ones, it even acts as a cure i.e, a space of peacefulness, it can be a life opportunity for some or maybe a source of income etc. Hence, tourism is not just an activity or phenomena it is a part of life which exists in each one of us. Therefore, there is a need of tourism planning and development so that the future generation won't be compromised, and the locals are benefitted from it.

In order to boost tourism sector, the government of Jharkhand has now opened its gate to the film industry in which one of the sites selected was the Netarhat of Latehar district. Recently, the road construction department of Jharkhand plans to construct 6 four-lane corridors, which will be an international level highways. One of the corridors namely 'Tourist corridor 'which will be of 270km, will be through Latehar which will further enhance the tourism development in this district. An effort has been proposed by the Lamu Tiger reserve management, to conserve and promote the wildlife and provide balance to the ecosystem in Budha Pahar which is spread over Garhwa(Jharkhand), Latehar(Jharkhand) and Balarampur (Chhattisgarh) the proposal plans to make 'soft release centre' in which the first phase is to bring more than 50 chital(deer) from Betla National Park to this centre. This initiative came into existence because it was in recent days that Budha pahar has been free from naxalites.

Therefore, there are many steps taken by various organisation to boost tourism sector continuously in Jharkhand. Latehar is gaining its importance as a tourist destination, hence implying the need of tourism planning and development.

2. STATE OF THE ART

With time there has been increase in the tourists visit which has a positive as well as negative impact on the environment and the host communities, this gives rise to the concept of sustainable tourism. Sustainable tourism takes full account of the present and future, social, economic, and the environmental impact, thereby focusing on optimal use of natural resources, conserving the natural environment, and focusing on benefitting the host communities, without compromising on the tourist satisfaction and ensuring on giving a meaningful tourist experience. Therefore, for tourism to survive for long term, the awareness of sustainable tourism is very crucial.

Latehar, the district of Jharkhand is gifted with natural wealth, it is covered with tropical vegetation, and according to the 'India State of Forest Report 2021', published by the Forest survey of India, the forest cover of Latehar is 56%of its total area, implying that this district is blessed with natural resources like minerals, forest products, diverse flora and fauna etc. Hence, offering a lot to the tourists, like its lush green forests, enchanting scenic beauty, mesmerizing views, hills, alluring waterfall and so on, it is basically an area submerged in nature. It is a promising district of Jharkhand, in sector of tourism ,as thinking of this district the first thing which strikes in our mind and one should be very proud of, is that, the highest waterfall of Jharkhand i.e, lodh fall(469ft) is located here and, not only this but the Betla National Park in Latehar is the first national park of India becoming a tiger reserve, and it is a place where the world's first tiger census was taken place, therefore apart from the places above, there are many other spots having its remarkable importance, which make Latehar as a prominent tourist destination.

3. PROBLEMS TO BE INVESTIGATED.

- Although Latehar has loads of picturesque view, waterfalls, adventurous place but there still exists places which lacks infrastructural development, availability of transport and communication and other tourism products, and the remoteness of the tourist spots further rises this gap.
- The fact that Jharkhand comes under the 'Red Corridor Area' meaning the parts of India where the naxalite-maoist insurgency has its strongest presence, and the district of Latehar comes under this zone, giving rise to a new challenge, as this can lead to a halt on the tourism industry as the tourist safety should always comes first.

- With 56% of forest cover this district does have many tourist spots which are yet to be explored offering more potential tourist spots which needs to be noticed or even maintained, and if at all the place has been explored the problem is that it is just not popular among people, due to the lack of awareness and total remoteness. Hence, promotion of tourism is a very essential part of this industry.
- As this is a huge industry it depends on various agencies, departments, and organisations to be maintained and grow continuously, hence, providing lots of employment opportunities. But the real question is, at what percentage of locals are benefitting from this or how many locals are participating.

  According to 2011 census of India, Latehar is tribal majority district having 45.54% of its population as schedule tribe. Hence, tourism as an industry here, with lots of visitation by diverse tourists, could be stressful for the indigenous communities. Their safety, privacy, and culture must be taken into consideration.
- The role of government plays a vital role in developing a place as a tourist destination. In the district like Latehar the government must take proper and precautious steps for the safety and benefit of both the locals and the tourists, with the sustainable use of the resource present here. Therefore, it is a huge challenge for the government.

4. OBJECTIVE OF THE INVESTIGATION AND MOTIVATION

- To evaluate the role of geographical factors in development of tourism
- To explore the potential areas of tourism
- To study the positive and negative factors affecting tourism
- To analyse the impact of tourism on the environment and the local population
- To determine the role of government in the growth of tourism

The motivation of this research topic is that the researcher is familiar to the place as it is the ancestral home of the researcher, and this area has lots of potential in tourism sector and because of its natural vegetation and population it requires responsible tourism and hence sustainable tourism development is very essential to survive tourism for a long run.

5. RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

Latehar is blessed with breathtaking landscapes which encourage the development of tourism.

- The historical and cultural facts of Latehar are some of the factors which have a positive impact on tourism, leading to an opportunity for tourism.
- There are some overlooked tourist spots which, if nurtured, will develop into potential tourist spots.
- Tourism development will help in tackling the problem of unemployment among the local population.
- Government schemes and policies for tourism will result in stimulation in tourism.

6. RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

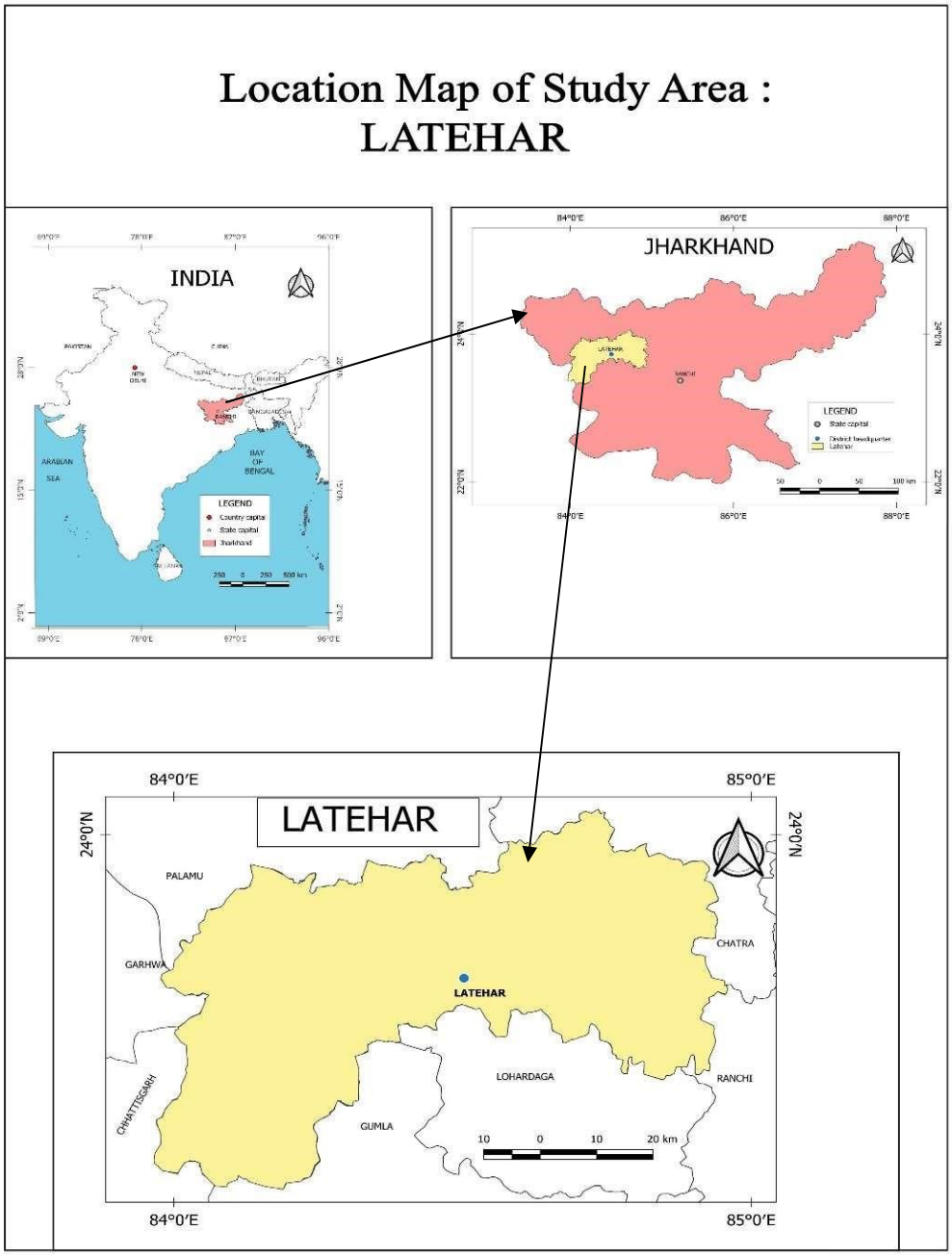
The research study will be mainly focused on the tourist spots of the district in Latehar of Jharkhand. The data will be collected using both primary and secondary sources.

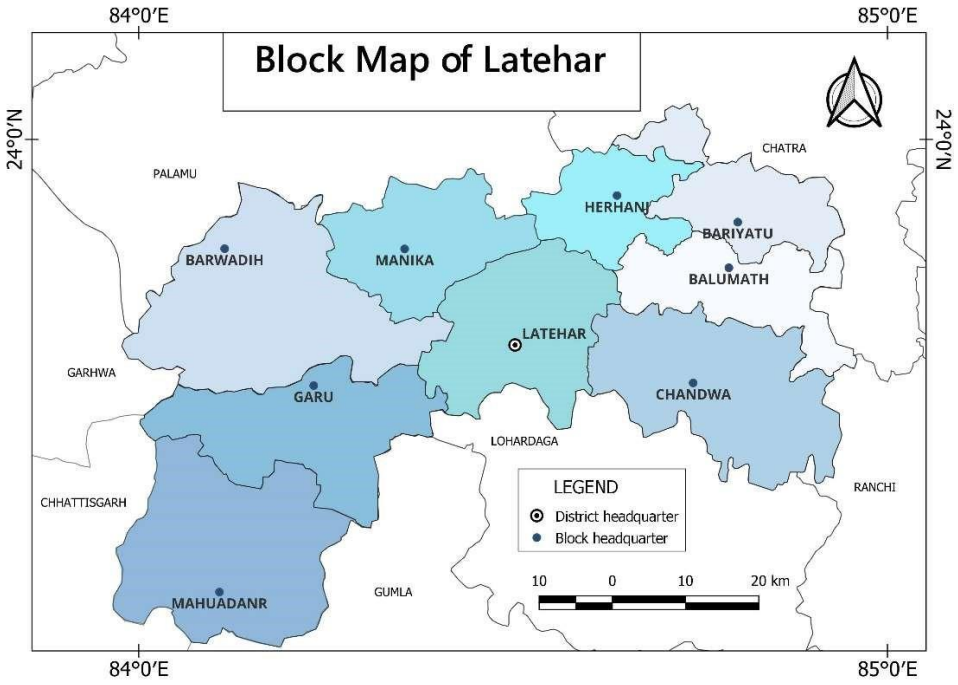
❖ Selection of the Field

Latehar is one of the 24 districts of Jharkhand, with its administrative headquarter as Latehar. Its latitudinal extent is 23°20' N to 24°40' N and longitudinal extent is 83°25'E to 85° E. Its total geographical area is 4,291 sq km, with an average elevation of 387m. It has two subdivisions, nine blocks and comprises 773 villages. It is approximately 108kms far, by road from Ranchi, the capital city of Jharkhand. Latehar once was an integral part of the old Palamu district, but later in 2001, it was recognised as a separate district. It still stands under Palamu division. According to 2011 Census of India, the population of Latehar is 7.27 lakh. It mostly consists of the tribal population as 45.54% is Schedule Tribe and more than 66% is Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe.

Latehar which was known for the Naxal-affected area but recently has changed its identity to a hill station. As we know Latehar is spread over an area of 4291 sq km, out of which 2403.04 sq km is covered with forest, therefore being rich in forest, minerals, and wildlife it calls out for more research work, to bring out more of its significance, without altering the integrity of the ecosystem. Although this area is standing as a tourist destination, it still needs attention for its optimum utilization of the resources present, as there is still a need for proper infrastructure, transport,

connectivity, and services to various tourist spots. Recently the tourism industry is emerging as the most developing science to study, and Latehar with its natural resources is a perfect place for this. Furthermore, tourism has a direct as well as indirect impact on the environment, socio-cultural and economic aspects, incorporating many lives. Consequently, fostering the significance of study, in this area.



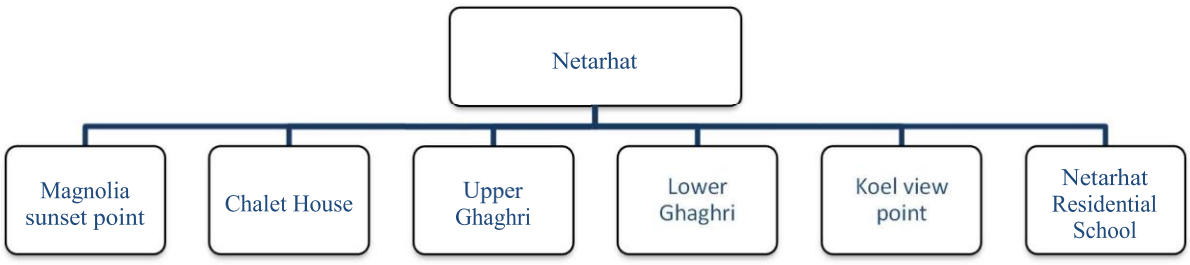


❖ **Unit of the Study**

The topography of Latehar makes it very remarkable for tourism destination. Many exotic sites are widespread in this district. There are 9 blocks in this district.

The tourist attractions in respective blocks are listed below:

1. MAHUADANR BLOCK
   - Netarhat

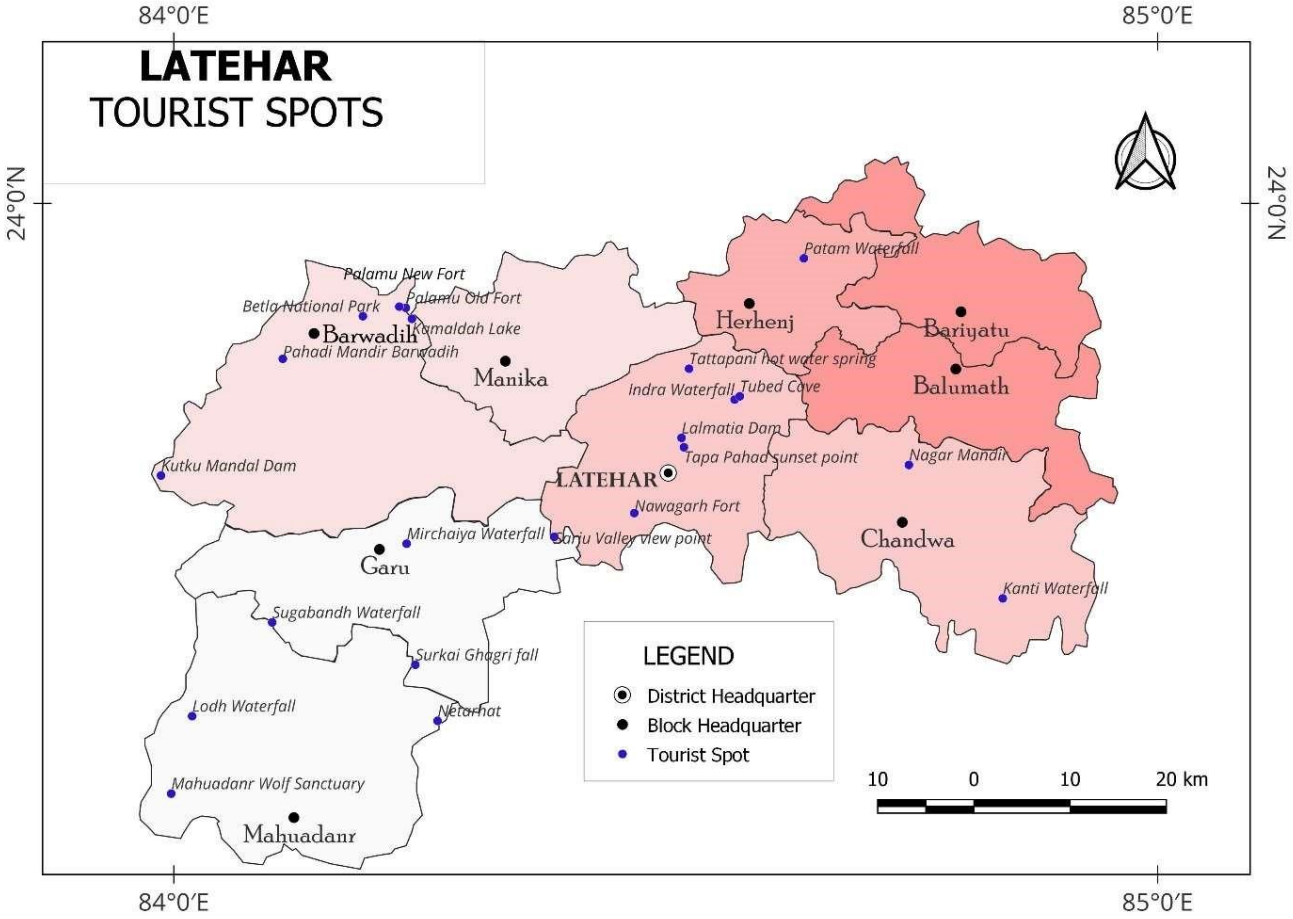


   - Lodh falls

- Suggabandh waterfall
- Mahuadanr Wolf Sanctuary

2. GARU BLOCK
    - Surkai Ghaghri fall
    - Mirchiya waterfall
3. BARWADIH BLOCK
    - Betla National Park
    - Kamaldah lake
    - Kutku Mandal dam
    - Barwadih pahari mandir
    - Old Palamu fort & New Palamu fort
4. LATEHAR BLOCK
    - Sarju valley
    - Tubed cave
    - Indra waterfall
    - Tattapani hot water spring
    - Narayanpur fort, Navagarh
    - Lalmatiya dam
    - Tapa pahad sunset point
5. HERHANJ BLOCK
    - Patam falls
6. CHANDWA BLOCK
    - Kanti waterfall
    - Maa nagar bhagwati temple/ Nagar mandir
    - Chulhapani (origin of Damodar River)
7. MANIKA BLOCK
8. BALUMATH BLOCK
9. BARIYATU BLOCK

Hence, from the above list we can see, tourism spots are present in maximum blocks of Latehar.



❖ **Selection of Informants**

Primary survey will be conducted from the informants who will be confined to the tourist spots. The informants for the study will be the tourists, hoteliers, the managing staff, workers, travel agents, tour operators, drivers, local entrepreneurs, and the local population.

❖ **Sample Size**

There are 22 tourist spots in Latehar, from which 6 tourist spots will be taken as a sample for research work. From these 6 tourist spots, the survey will be conducted on 50 respondents.
Hence, the sample size will be 300.

The 6 tourist spots for sampling are selected, which are categorised based on their features of attraction, as mentioned in official website of Latehar tourism which are as follows:

NATURE AND WATERFALLS	WILDLIFE	HERITAGE
1. Netarhat	2. Betla National Park	3. Palamu fort
4. Lodh fall	5. Mahuadanr wolf sanctuary	
6. Suggabandh fall		

a) Tentative Chapterisation

Introduction

1. Geographical background of Latehar
2. Prospects of tourism in Latehar
3. Positive and negative factors affecting tourism in Latehar
4. Impact of tourism on the local population and the environment
5. Role of government in promoting tourism sector
6. Problems and their solution for sustainable tourism

Conclusion

Bibliography

Appendix

7 SOURCES OF DATA AND TOOLS TO BE USED IN THE COLLECTION OF DATA.

The collection of data will be done by both primary as well as secondary sources.

For this research work mostly the primary data collection techniques will be used such as questionnaires, schedules, interviews, and observations. The surveys will be conducted by stratified and random sampling methods.

The secondary data will be obtained from the Annual report of tourism survey of Jharkhand published by the Ministry of tourism, Jharkhand tourism-related journals, JTDCL (Jharkhand Tourism Development Corporation Limited) published quarterly magazines, newspapers, articles, and official sites of Jharkhand tourism and Latehar tourism.

8. ANALYSIS OF DATA

The collected data will be analysed through SPSS, MS Excel, Erdas, QGIS.

Topographical maps and satellite imagery will also be used.

For testing the hypotheses, appropriate test will be used.

The tourist satisfaction and their footfall, infrastructural facilities, locals participation, Paryatak mitra data, role of organisation, environmental impact, promotion of tourism etc will be analysed.

9. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

Jharkhand is blessed with natural landscapes, valleys, waterfalls etc having lots of prospects for tourism. According to the officials of the tourism department, the number of foreign tourists has gradually increased since 2000, boosting the economic growth of the state. Hence, the tourism industry has gained considerable importance. Latehar is called “The Hidden Heaven” as it is famous for its natural environment, promoting wide scope for ecotourism. “The hidden heaven” has many tourist spots which are known, but there also exist certain sites about which people are unaware and hence leading to the need of awareness and marketing of these tourist spots. In today’s world, people wish to have getaways, live life to the fullest etc. Therefore, it has become a part of their life and Latehar is the best place for it, as it offers a nice, serene environment. Latehar fulfils the emerging trends of tourism which are solo trips, adventures, peace, calmness, natural beauty and so on. thereupon further leading to the need to strengthen the tourism industry in the district of Latehar, but in a sustainable way. As we know Latehar is a resource-rich region, hence, development should be done taking into consideration the resources and also of the locals. For optimum development, there is a need to maintain a balance between conservation and profit-making. Unfavourable planning of tourism in this area is dangerous for the people and the environment. Therefore, for a place like Latehar with the most forest-covered area and tribal

dominated population, proper planning and management in the tourism sector is required for maintaining ecological balance and also to prevent exploitation.

As for today, the Government is working on schemes like Swadesh Yojana, breakfast and bed scheme, retreat tourism etc, and also there are upcoming schemes like State tourist-friendly security force and Jharkhand home stay scheme to enhance the tourism sector in more efficient ways.

10. ITS RELEVANCE TO THE PRESENT-DAY PROBLEM AND NEEDS OF THE SOCIETY

As per India Tourism statistics, 2022 report, Jharkhand witnessed positive growth in domestic as well as foreign tourist visit. As per Union Tourism Ministry, initially in 2000 the tourist visit in Jharkhand was only4.53 lakh among which 3111 were foreigners and in 2019 their number grew to 1.76 witnessing huge rise, therefore it requires frequent study to understand the trend of tourism for which proper planning and management can be done, so that its value doesn't deteriorate with time or in other words we can say sustainable tourism is a necessity. Tourism has become a huge industry, it not only contributes to the economy of the country but also impacts on social and cultural aspects of the population, and this district has tribal majority population, so this gives an opportunity for tourism to make the tourist have an enriching experience of their culture. Therefore, the government is planning on developing homestay programme where the tourist can stay with the tribes, so that they can gain experience of their traditions, lifestyle etc. and learn about them personally, in this way the government is promoting the culture of the tribes so that it may continue through generations and not be forgotten. But there should always be a balance as this might for some tribals might be seen as intrusion. Therefore, sustainable tourism development is a must in present day as with rising number of tourist visitation comes with many drawbacks. Today unemployment is the biggest problem, tourism being a huge industry plays a vital role in providing employment opportunities which is the very need of present-day society.

11. CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXISTING KNOWLEDGE

The essential part of research is the review of literature which conveys an understanding on the respective area of research, as one must have a brief knowledge about the topic as it acts as an opening door of running thoughts. There is a study which gives a gist of future plans by the government to promote the tourism sector, to attract footfall. Different schemes are proposed like

the ‘Jharkhand home stay scheme', 'State tourist friendly security force'. It also states about the role of the government in encouraging private parties to participate in the tourism sector by providing them incentives (Mukesh, 2021). Another paper talks about the role undertaken by the Central and the State Government to encourage eco-tourism in order to enhance and develop rich resources. It informs about the Swadesh scheme under which it mentions the efforts made to develop eco-tourism circuit from Dimna Lake to Netarhat/Betla. Apart from this, it also focuses on the fact that the tourism department would host festivals or functions in February to develop retreat tourism (The Pioneer, 2020). The Implication of tourism traits on Jharkhand with special reference to perception of local residents, attempts to showcase Jharkhand as a considerable tourism destination. Through this paper, we know that tourism in Jharkhand is dependent on traits such as economic development, infrastructural development, cost of living, socio-cultural and the environment. It also emphasised the need for awareness and promotion or marketing of tourist destinations (Kumar and Mishra, 2019). Livelihood and tourism in Netarhat, Jharkhand: A geographical analysis emphasise the present livelihood conditions of the locals of Netarhat and suggested bringing them to the mainstream of modernisation. On the aspects of tourism there exist many holes that hamper the full development of the tourism industry, hence suggesting the measures that should be taken (Ershad and Paul, 2018).A study was also based on Sustainable eco-tourism development in Jharkhand which focused on the tourist spots that are present all over Jharkhand which were categorised into hill stations, waterfalls, parks, culture etc. the paper also states the importance of sustainable growth (Prasad,2009). There exist many challenges in developing an area for ecotourism like we see in a study on Dalma Wildlife Sanctuary, which talks about the challenges and opportunities of developing ecotourism. It talks of how government as a stakeholder faces hurdles during the process, it also focuses on the benefits of the locals and tourists. It points out the importance of how co-operation among different departments of government is necessary. Apart from the institutes, environment conservation and wildlife safety should be at priority (Kapure, Singh and Gupta,2020). The tourism industry stands as an instrument for economic and employment generation, and even developing remote areas. Hence, a study states to promote ecotourism in Jharkhand aggressively in order to enhance the backward areas, showing their unique crafts and culture and also utilising the lush green resource. The study has analysed the change impact and opportunity of ecotourism in Jharkhand (Saw,2018).

12. FUTURE WORK

- The impact of tourism on indigenous communities
- Post covid tourism behaviour
- SWOT analysis to understand tourism planning and development.

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